

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method comprising the steps of:  
operating on a pixel-by-pixel basis texture coordinates  
5 and LOD (Level of Detail) values from object data;  
determining based on the LOD values a filtering domain  
of texels read from a texture memory; and

acquiring a weighted average depending on said texture  
coordinates and the size of said determined filtering domain  
10 to create a texture color to be pasted to said object.

2. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said texel read from said texture memory is determined  
based on said operated texture coordinates and LOD values.

3. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein  
determination of said texel filtering domain is  
performed by use of two or more dimensional LOD values.

4. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein  
in the process of determining said texel filtering domain,  
an offset value is added with a predetermined preset parameter  
to modify said LOD values.

5. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein  
in the process of determining said filtering domain,  
depending on said LOD values and a parameter for designating

the manner of selecting a plurality of mipmap data, one of the plurality of mipmap data stored in the texture memory is selected.

5        6.        The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein  
              in the process of determining said filtering domain, the  
              number of texels required to acquire a texture color is  
              determined in accordance with a predetermined flag.

10        7.        The image processing method according to claim 5, wherein  
              in the process of determining the filtering domain,  
              depending on a parameter for selecting whether or not a  
              plurality of values of said LOD values are to be unified to any  
              one, said LODs are unified to any one in compliance with said  
15        parameter for designating the manner of selecting said  
              plurality of mipmap data.

              8.        The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein  
              said step of acquiring said weighted average includes:  
20        acquiring a blend ratio and a decision flag in said  
              filtering domain from said texture coordinates and said  
              filtering domain;

              deciding, by said decision flag, texels to be excluded  
              from the object for acquiring the weighted average, out of said  
25        texels read from said texture memory; and

              acquiring the weighted average of said texels as the  
              object in accordance with said blend ratio.

9. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said step of determining said filtering domain further includes:

5 modifying said LOD values with a predetermined parameter and determining a final filtering domain based on a flag indicative of how many texels are to be used to acquire a texture color; and

10 in case of selecting a mode of four texels by said flag indicative of how many texels are to be used to acquire a texture color, setting said decision flag corresponding to which one of four-divided domains of a texel positioned centrally of nine texels contains the center point of said filtering domain.

15 10. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said step of determining said filtering domain further includes:

20 modifying said LOD values with a predetermined parameter, and determining a final filtering domain based on a flag indicative of how many texels are to be used to acquire the texture color; and

25 in case of selecting a mode of nine texels by said flag indicative of how many texels are to be used to acquire the texture color, indicating said blend ratio and decision flag correspondingly to four areas into which said nine texels are divided by lines passing through the center of said filtering domain, a first one of said four areas containing the upper left

vertex of said filtering domain, a second one of said four areas containing the upper right vertex of said filtering domain, a third one of said four areas containing the lower left vertex of said filtering domain, and a fourth one of said four areas containing the lower right vertex of said filtering domain.

11. The image processing apparatus, comprising:

a circuit for operating texture coordinates and LOD (Level of Detail) values on a pixel-by-pixel basis from object data;

a circuit for determining a filtering domain of a texel read from a texture memory, based on said operated LOD values; and

a circuit for acquiring a weighted average in compliance with said determined texture coordinates and the size of said filtering domain.

12. The image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said texel to be read from said texture memory is determined based on said operated texture coordinates and said LOD values.

13. The image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said circuit for determining a filtering domain of said texel determines said filtering domain by use of two or more

dimensional LOD values.

14. The image processing apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein

5           said circuit for determining a domain for filtering said  
texel adds up an offset value with a predetermined preset  
parameter to modify said LOD values.

15. The image processing apparatus according to claim 11,  
10           wherein

          depending on said LOD values and a parameter indicative  
of the manner of selecting a plurality of mipmap data, said  
circuit for determining said filtering domain selects any one  
of said plurality of mipmap data stored in a texture memory.

15           16. The image processing apparatus according to claim 11,  
          wherein

          said circuit for determining said filtering domain  
determines the number of texels required to acquire the texture  
20           color depending on a predetermined flag.

17. The image processing apparatus according to claim 15,  
wherein

          said circuit for determining said filtering domain  
25           unifies said LODs into any one correspondingly to a parameter  
for specifying the manner of selecting said plurality of mipmap  
data and depending on a parameter for selecting whether or not



correspondingly to which one of four-divided areas of a texel positioned centrally of nine texels contains the center of said filtering domain.

5     20.     The image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

          said circuit for determining said filtering domain modifies said LOD values with a predetermined parameter and determines a final filtering domain based on a flag indicative  
10 of how many texels are to be used to acquire the texture color, and wherein

          in case of selecting a mode of nine texels by said flag indicative of how many texels are to be used to acquire the texture color, said first circuit acquires said blend ratio and  
15 said decision flag correspondingly to four areas into which said nine texels are divided by lines passing through the center of said filtering domain, a first one of said four areas containing the upper left vertex of said filtering domain, a second one of said four areas containing the upper right vertex of said  
20 filtering domain, a third one of said four areas containing the lower left vertex of said filtering domain, and a fourth one of said four areas containing the lower right vertex of said filtering domain.

25     21.     The image processing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

          a circuit for creating an address for reading a texel

from a texture RAM based on said texture coordinates and said modified LOD values; and

a circuit for sampling texels read from said texture RAM, wherein

- 5        said second circuit enters said texels sampled by said circuit for sampling texels, and rearranges corresponding texels based on said flag indicative of how many texels are to be used to acquire the texture color.